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CURSE OF THE SPAWN

TODD MCFARLANE PRODUCTIONS

www.spawn.com

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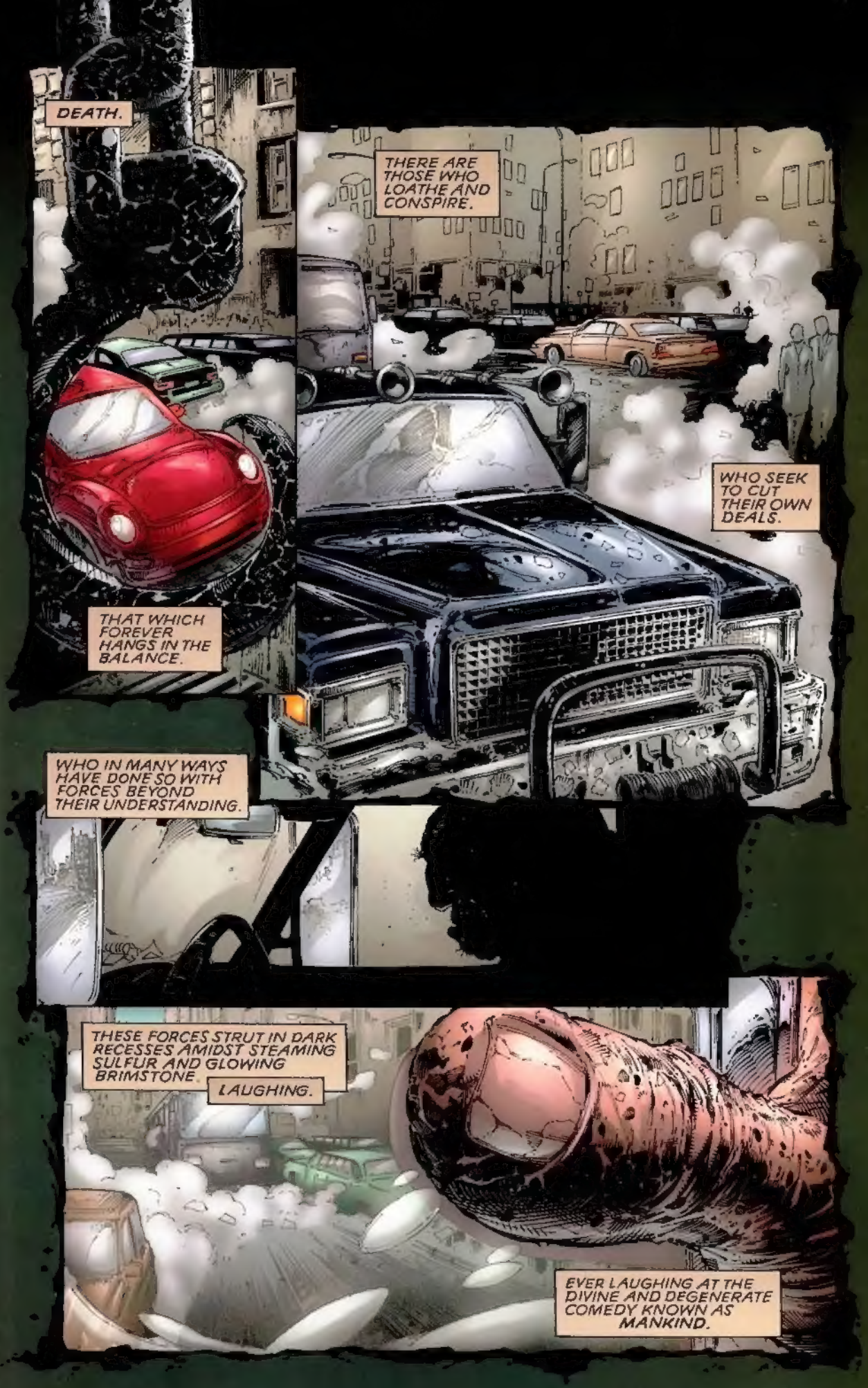
NEW YORK CITY. WHERE WEALTH BUYS PRIVILEGE, ENTITLEMENT, SECURITY. A SENSE OF IMMORTALITY.
MARGARET ESCHENS IS AMONG THE SPECIAL CLASS. THE ELITE OF THE ELITE. BUSINESS IS BOOMING. THE MARKET IS UP. LIFE IS GOOD.
SELL AT TWO AND THREE QUARTERS THEN GO FOR THE CAROTID WITH BUSINESS AFFAIRS. I WANT THEM BLEEDING BY FIVE.
IF I DON'T HEAR GOOD NEWS FROM YOU BY FIVE-OH-ONE BUY YOURSELF A TOILET BRUSH AND SOME COVERALLS BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED FOR YOUR NEW POSITION.
MONEY. POWER.


DEATH.
THERE ARE THOSE WHO LOATHE AND CONSPIRE.
WHO SEEK TO CUT THEIR OWN DEALS.
THAT WHICH FOREVER HANGS IN THE BALANCE.
WHO IN MANY WAYS HAVE DONE SO WITH FORCES BEYOND THEIR UNDERSTANDING.
THESE FORCES STRUT IN DARK RECESSES AMIDST STEAMING SULFUR AND GLOWING BRIMSTONE.
LAUGHING.
EVER LAUGHING AT THE DIVINE AND DEGENERATE COMEDY KNOWN AS MANKIND.

OFF TO THE ENCLAVES OF THE SUPER RICH. MANSION COMMUNITIES IN TERRYTOWN AND CONNECTICUT.
SON OF A BITCH. TWO AND AN EIGHTH.
TERRY TOWN
NEXT EXIT 44N
CONNECTICUT
NEXT 7 MILES
RIGHT LANE
EXIT 7 NORTH
WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU HAVE EVERYTHING AND KNOW HOW TO KEEP IT? WHAT CAN HURT YOU WHEN YOU'RE ON TOP OF THE WORLD?
WHAM!
CRASH!

CRUNCH!
POOF!
SO SAD.
TRAVIS HAS A TERRIBLE SKIN PROBLEM. DOCTORS HAVE GIVEN IT A NAME... BUT HIS PARENTS, FANATICAL ABOUT THEIR OLD TESTAMENT BELIEFS, CALLED HIM CURSED.
BUT THE BEATINGS AND SCRIPTURE PASSAGES SCRATCHED ONTO HIS BACK WITH BUTTER KNIVES WEREN'T AS BAD AS THE SNEERS OF THE OTHER CHILDREN. THE NAME THEY GAVE HIM. CROCODILE.
WHEN THEY SAY WORDS CAN NEVER HURT YOU... THEY LIE.
TRAVIS QUINN CLIMBS OUT OF HIS TOW TRUCK, HAVING JUST SENT THE LIMO TO THE BOTTOM OF THE RAVINE.
BUT HE'S LEARNED WAYS TO DEAL WITH THE PAIN. SPECIAL WAYS.

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SHE SCREAMS, MORE FROM INSTINCT THAN UNDERSTANDING. THERE IS NO REAL COMPREHENSION OF THE FACTS. SHE'S BEEN IN CONTROL OF HER LIFE FOR SO LONG. BUT NOW...
...THAT'S ALL OVER.
HELLO, MARGARET.
I'M HERE TO MAKE SOME REPAIRS. YOUR SOUL IS IN NEED OF WORK. THE DAMAGE IS EXTENSIVE.
BUT TRUST ME.
I'M AN EXPERT AT THIS SORT OF THING.
SS
GET AWAY FROM ME!

THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO. NOWHERE TO HIDE.
THIS ISN'T HAPPENING--
I - I WAS IN AN ACCIDENT--
I'M STILL UNCONSCIOUS.
THIS IS A NIGHT-MARE.
THAT'S ALL.

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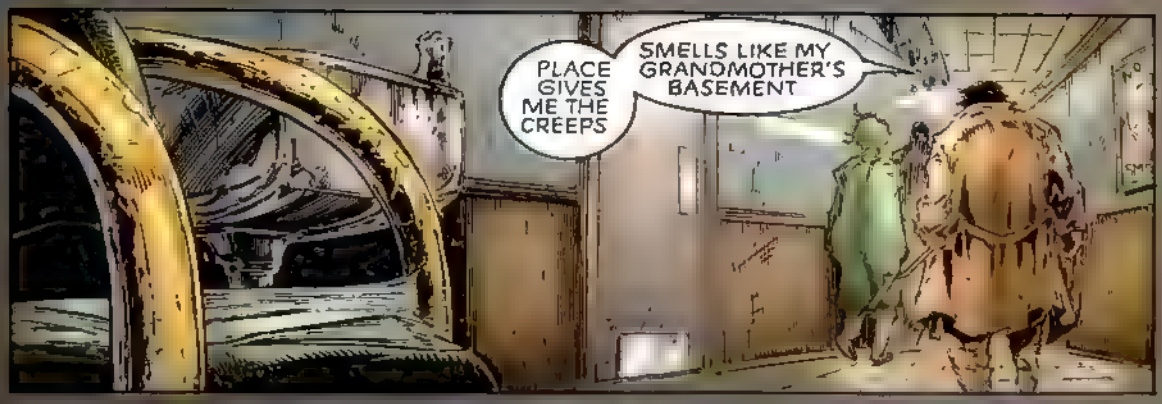
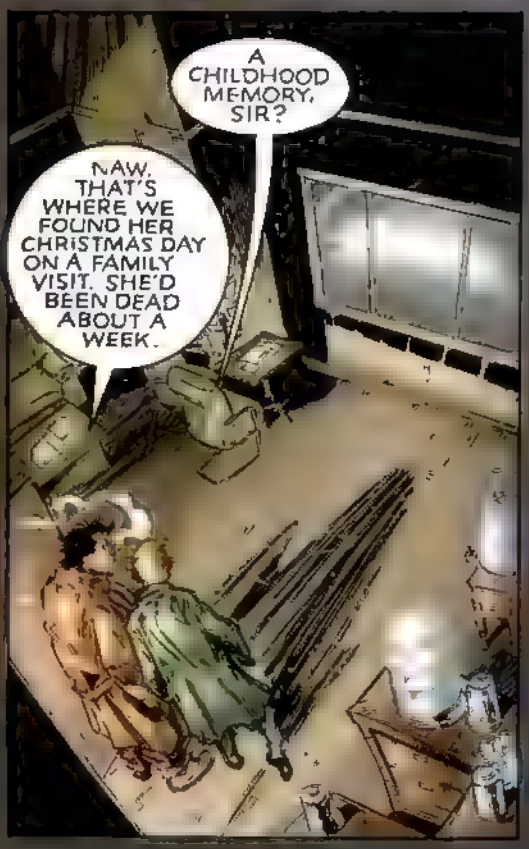
AND-- I'M GOING TO WAKE UP--
--AND EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.
EVERY-THING WILL BE FINE.
Oh GOD, PLEASE, WAKE ME UP.
WAKE ME UP!
WAKE ME UP!
THE NIGHTMARE HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

ELSEWHERE. FENTON SANITARIUM. LAND OF THE LIVING DEAD.
FENTON Sanitarium
ALL WEAPONS INTO THE TRAY.
PUPOSE OF VISIT?
SEEIN' SOME SKULL-SHRINKER ABOUT SOME NUTJOB.
Dr CARL MARSH--
--ABOUT THE DISPOSITION--
--OF A FORMER PATIENT.
S'WHAT I SAID.
TWITCH, WHATCHU GOT THERE, FOUR, FIVE GUNS? HOW DO YOU HIDE 'EM ALL ON THAT SCRAWNY LITTLE BODY A YOURS?
SKILLFULLY, SIR.

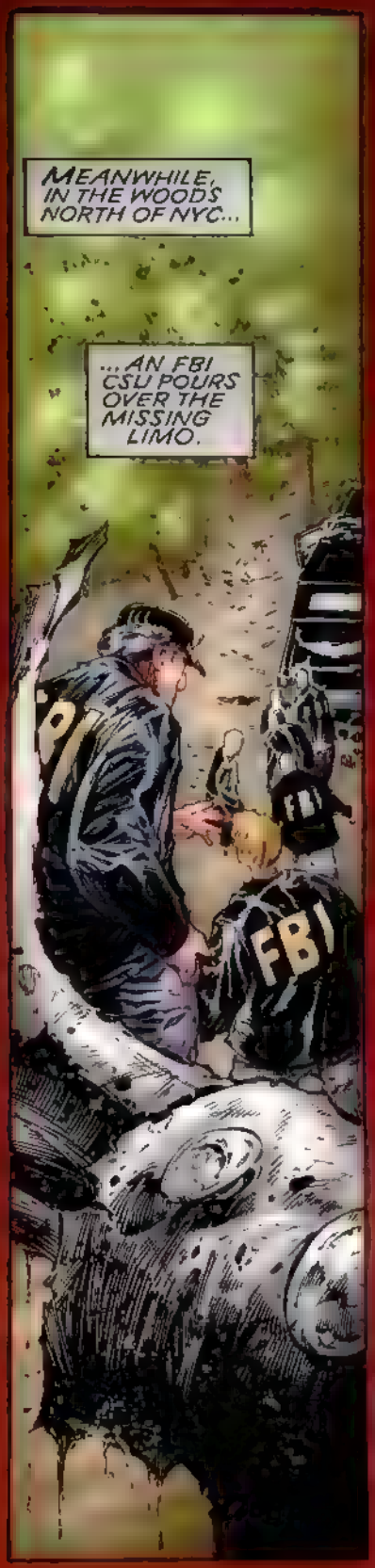

PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS
SMELLS LIKE MY GRANDMOTHER'S BASEMENT


A CHILDHOOD MEMORY, SIR?
NAW. THAT'S WHERE WE FOUND HER CHRISTMAS DAY ON A FAMILY VISIT. SHE'D BEEN DEAD ABOUT A WEEK.

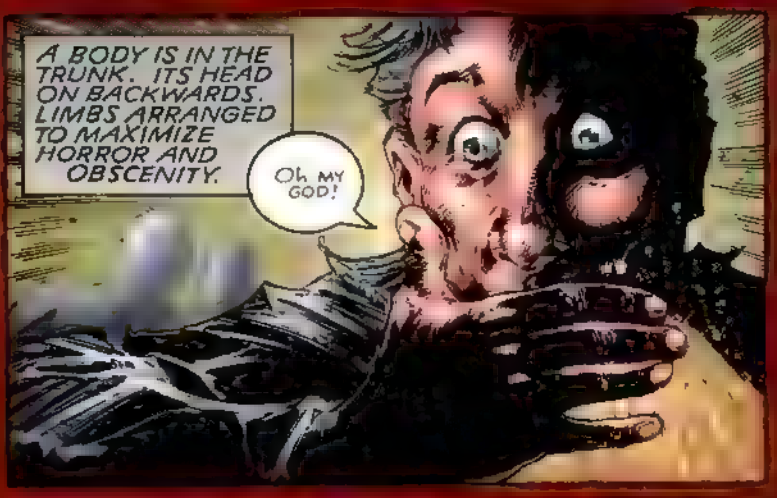
THE SNAKE PIT.
LAND OF THE MIND-TORTURED AND CONSCIOUSLY EVIL.
THE ZOMBIES, WEREWOLVES AND VAMPIRES OF MODERN SOCIETY DWELL HERE FOR TWO HOURS A DAY.

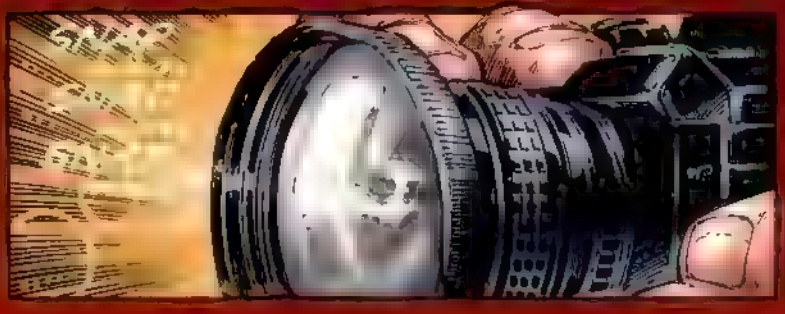
WHAT A FRIGGIN' PISSHOLE.
SUCH IS THE QUALITY OF OUR MERCY, SIR.
THEN LOCKDOWN.
SCREW MERCY.
DROP A COUPLE GRENADES DOWN THERE. PROBLEM SOLVED.

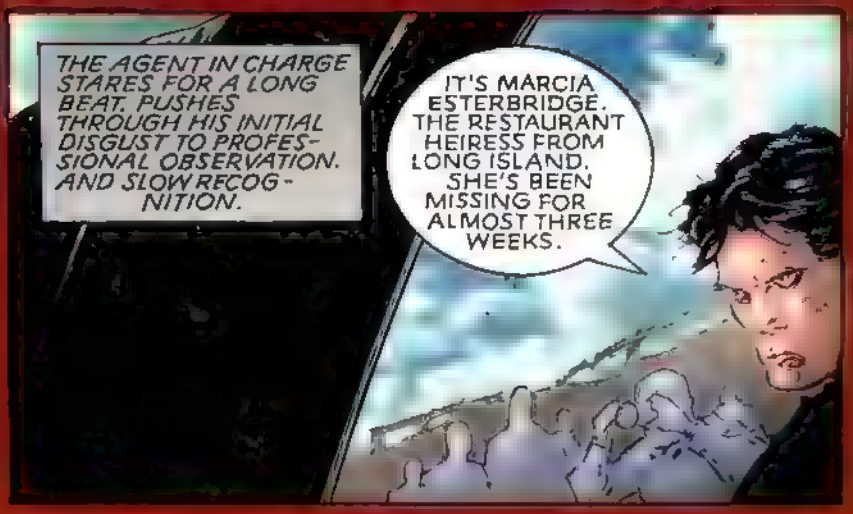
DETECTIVES. I'M Dr. CARL MARSH, SUPERVISING PSYCHIATRIST AT THIS FACILITY. I'M GLAD YOU COULD COME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
WHAT I HAVE TO IMPART TO YOU IS QUITE IMPERATIVE
SO, SPIT IT OUT.
A RECENT PATIENT OF MINE HAS BEEN DISCHARGED.
ROGER BONNER. A VERY "DISTURBING" CASE.
I WANT TO SAY RIGHT NOW THAT HE IS NOT THE SO-CALLED "CROCODILE-KILLER". I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THAT CASE IN THE PAPERS, THE FOUR RECENT MURDERS, AND I AM CONVINCED THAT, SOONER THAN LATER, THE POLICE WILL ARREST ROGER. HE FITS ALL THE PARAMETERS OF THE CRIME.
BUT THE POLICE WILL BE WRONG. ROGER IS INNOCENT. I AM WILLING TO PAY YOU TWICE YOUR USUAL FEE TO PROVE IT.
YOU WANT US TO PROVE THIS NUTCASE BONNER IS INNOCENT BEFORE HE'S EVEN BEEN CHARGED WITH ANYTHING?
HE WILL BE ARRESTED, TRUST ME. AND, UNLESS SOMEONE INTERVENES, HE WILL BE FOUND GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR A CRIME HE DIDN'T COMMIT.
BUT WORST OF ALL...
... THE REAL KILLER WILL STILL BE WALKING FREE.


MEANWHILE, IN THE WOODS NORTH OF NYC...
...AN FBI CSU POURS OVER THE MISSING LIMO.
FBI
FBI

GET THAT TRUNK LID OPEN!
POP!


A BODY IS IN THE TRUNK. ITS HEAD ON BACKWARDS. LIMBS ARRANGED TO MAXIMIZE HORROR AND OBSCENITY.
OH MY GOD!




THE AGENT IN CHARGE STARES FOR A LONG BEAT. PUSHES THROUGH HIS INITIAL DISGUST TO PROFESSIONAL OBSERVATION. AND SLOW RECOGNITION.
IT'S MARCIA ESTERBRIDGE. THE RESTAURANT HEIRESS FROM LONG ISLAND. SHE'S BEEN MISSING FOR ALMOST THREE WEEKS.

YEAH, THIS IS ZENDER. WE'VE GOT ANOTHER ONE
LISTEN, WE NEED HELP ON THIS.
WE NEED SOMEBODY DOWN FROM D.C., SOMEBODY GOOD WE NEED A PROFILER
TV NEWS
WASHINGTON, D.C.-- IN A ROOM FILLED WITH DEATH.
DESICCATED CORPSES. THE STENCH OF BLOOD EVERYWHERE
HE MOVES. SLOW. DETERMINED PROFESSIONAL.
A MAN AS FOCUSED AS A .44 MAGNUM ROUND IN FLIGHT.
Dr. MARC SIMMONS IS IN THE ZONE.
LET'S TALK THIS OUT.

THE SERIAL KILLER CALLED THE "UNKNOWN SOLDIER" DOESN'T BELIEVE IN "TALK".
YOU SEE WHAT I DONE TO THEM OTHERS. THIS ONE GETS HIS HEAD BLOWN OFF UNLESS YOU AND YOUR FEDS PULL BACK.
NOW!
THIS IS WAR, GODAMMIT!

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EASY, EASY.
LOOK AT THIS, I'M DISARMING, SEE?
THE WAR IS OVER.
YOU WON
YOU TOOK OUT THE ENEMY.
THE REST OF US ARE READY TO SURRENDER
STEVEN MITCHELL, THE MAN YOU WERE, IS READY TO COME HOME FROM THE FRONT. HE'S GOING TO BE DECORATED FOR HIS BRAVERY FOR HIS UNSWERVING VALOR.
YOU KILLED THEM ALL, STEVEN.
NO MORE ENEMIES LEFT.
I KILLED THEM ALL. I DID.
I.
DID.
I'M A HERO.
HIS FINGER LEAVES THE GRENADE PIN.
SIMMONS HITS THE DECK AS THE FBI SHARPSHOOTERS DO THEIR JOB.

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SEMPER FI, YOU BASTARDS..
DAMMIT!
THREE...
TWO..
ONE!
BOOM!
NOW I SEE!
YOU'RE THE ENEMY!
SIMMONS DOES A PERFECT DIVE-AND-ROLL. HE LEARNED THE MOVE FROM HIS BIG BROTHER AL WHEN THEY WERE KIDS.

MARC SHOULD BE HAPPY. JOB WELL DONE. THE HOSTAGE IS ALIVE. THE KILLER IS FINISHED
BUT AS A TRAINED PSYCHIATRIST AND PSYCHO-ANALYST, HE FEELS AS THOUGH HE FAILED. THIS MAN, STEVEN MITCHELL, A SOLDIER UN-ABLE TO COME HOME FROM BATTLE, IS SOMEONE HE HOPED HE COULD REACH.
EVEN SAVE...
SIR, IT'S THE DIRECTOR.
MARC, THEY NEED YOU IN NEW YORK RIGHT AWAY.

MARC SIMMONS, THE FBI'S TOP PROFILER AND NEGOTIATOR, GOES OVER THE CASE OF THE "CROCODILE-KILLER". A PORTRAIT OF THE MURDERER IS ALREADY TAKING SHAPE IN HIS MIND.
CROCODILE CASE, huh. LOOKS TOUGH. YOU MUST BE LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING TO THE BIG APPLE. SEE YOUR EX-SISTER-IN-LAW, WANDA. BEEN TOO LONG, RIGHT?
TOO BAD 'BOUT MITCHELL. NOW HE'S ONE OF THE DEAD. LIKE ME.
JUST ANOTHER VICTIM OF YOUR SCREW-UPS. ALSO LIKE ME
MAYBE POOR AL WOULD BE ALIVE IF YOU'D BEEN A BETTER BROTHER INSTEAD OF ALWAYS COMPETING FOR EVERY-THING!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP! GODDAMN YOU! LEAVE ME ALONE!
NO ONE THERE. AS ALWAYS. ONLY THE PHANTOM PANGS OF GUILT AND REMORSE.
BELOW, NEW YORK CITY AWAITS. SO MANY MEMORIES. ALL HE DARES FOCUS ON IS THE JOB AT HAND. THE JOB IS ALL THAT MATTERS.

I'M SPECIAL AGENT LITZ, THIS IS SPECIAL AGENT YAEGHER. JUST SO YOU KNOW, THIS IS *OUR* CASE. ANYBODY TALKS TO THE MEDIA, THAT'S US. YOU'RE A *CONSULTANT*. NOTHING *MORE*. GOT IT?
FINE. ALL I WANT IS THE KILLER OFF THE STREETS.
ANY LEADS?
JUST THE NAME OF THE MAN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...
...HE'S A RECENTLY RELEASED PATIENT FROM FENTON SANITARIUM. A PERFECT MATCH FOR THE "CROCODILE-KILLER."
HIS NAME IS *ROGER BONNER*.

MEANWHILE, AT A RUNDOWN TRANSIENT HOTEL--
--A DEN OF CRACKWHORES, SMACK ADDICTS, AND VARIOUS URBAN ANIMALS--
--TWO WEARY DETECTIVES FOLLOW A PROMISING LEAD.
BAM BAM B
OPEN UP, BONNER.
WHAT?
Dr MARSH SENT US TO-- AWW, JEZZUSS! YOU GOT DEAD CATS AND DEAD RATS ALL OVER THE WALLS HERE! YOU SEE THIS, TWITCH?!
I SEE IT, SIR
THEY'RE PRETTY AREN'T THEY PRETTY?
PRETTY FRIGGIN' DISGUSTING!

GET YOUR THINGS, MINUS THE DEAD PETS. WE'RE PUTTIN' YOU IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY
CRASH!
FBI! NOBODY MOVE!
WHO ARE YOU?
DETECTIVES. WHO ARE YOU?
MARC SIMMONS, FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST.
FBI
SIMMONS?

ACROSS THE STREET, A FAMILIAR TOW TRUCK PULLS AWAY FROM THIS SCENE OF FBI ACTIVITY.
INSIDE THE 4x4 ARE THE McGREGORS
HALLIE, BEN, AND JEFFREY.
TRAVIS QUINN IS GOING TO HAVE HIMSELF A BUSY NIGHT.
TO BE CONCLUDED.

blah blah blah

BlahBlahBlah_73

w/terry fitzgerald

tdfitz@aol.com

So. Looks like our foray into the world of popular music, or not so POPular music but wickedly cool music, is continuing. We just signed on with a record company to produce another music video for a famous band. I can not comment any more at this time, but keep your eyes open for future blahs. I will tell you that the video will be one half animation and one half live action! The record company pitched the idea to MTV and they loved it, stating that they will guarantee the video gets heavy rotation once delivered. (No, it's not Aqua or the Spice girls. Don't worry. You won't see anything like that on my watch here at Todd McFarlane Entertainment, unless they are talking about $1 billion cash...a NHL hockey team...and a SL600 Mercedes convertible, black.)

Have you seen the Movie Maniacs toys in the store yet? They are moving fast so get offa your ass and get down to a Toys Us. The line consists of Freddy from Nightmare on Elm Street, Jason from Friday the 13th, Eve and Patrick from Species II and the coolest of them all, Leatherface from The Texas Chainsaw Massacre.

There are two distinctly different versions of the toys out there. The first version is more PG-13 in nature with almost no blood anywhere on the figure. The second more gory version has blood splatter all over the character! Leatherface even comes with a decapitated head in a bucket.

Each figure comes with a stand made of skulls and bones that holds a miniature version of the original movie poster from each film! These figs are too cool to pass up. We are busy setting up the second line of Movie Maniacs toys for Spring or Summer of 1999. So far we have the following the Crow, Chucky and Bride of Chucky, Pumpkinhead, Psycho, and one or two others I can't mention yet.

I have been busy reading scripts and visiting movie sets looking for the next big, hot movie project to produce toys of. So far they exist mostly of comedic properties, so be prepared to see figures not so dark and evil as some of our other lines.

The movie scene is really weird next year with Star Wars freaking the crap out of everyone in the business. Yes Star Wars will do huge business, but does that mean that everyone will only purchase Star Wars items and nothing else? I don think so. In fact I know a few people who could care less about Star Wars. Mind you they are over 75 years old, so what does that say? So keep your eyes open for further toy info as it becomes available.

This month's photos are entirely baseball related. First up you have Al Simmons and Todd with living baseball legend Tommy Lasorda. Tommy is best known for his long stint as manager of the LA Dodgers...and for his funny commercials. The second photo also features the guys with another legend of baseball, Bobby Bonilla. Bobby has played for a myriad of teams over his illustrious career. He is best known as a wicked outfielder who can smack the crap out of a ball every now and then. Both photos were taken in the locker rooms of BOB, (aka Bank One Ballpark), in Phoenix, AZ, home of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Both Todd and Al are huge baseball fans having played the game growing up and at college at Eastern Washington University. Both continue to play hardball to this day in tournaments throughout the country and are quite successful.

Until next month...all the best.

terry fitzgerald

P.S. Next month we have a baby photo of Todd that we stole from him. You can decide whether he was a cute baby for yourself. I'm not saying a word!

"We just signed on with a record company to produce another music video for a famous band."

Todd McFarlane, Tommy Lasorda and Al Simmons and below Todd and Al with Bobby Bonilla.

Curse Words
P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ 85285-7228
www.spawn.com

Dear Mr McFarlane

I am writing basically in response to Thomas Winship's letter. In his letter he basically aired some of his views on *Spawn* and your line of products as a whole. Most of his opinions I did not agree with.

His question concerning the origin of Priest is juvenile. Obviously when having to redo a whole character in a long line of comics while still making the story fit is a task in itself. But to be so nit-picky on details as to the character's hair color or personal life is trivial. Isn't Spawn supposed to be the main character? Not Priest.

Concerning the *Curse of the Spawn* story involving Suture and the police, this story was a work of art. If you want to read stories in a perfect world where all you have to be concerned about is the good guys beating the bad guys then fine, buy any Marvel or DC title and enjoy. But C.O.T.S. 5 - 8 is a story of the real world. The world we live in. I think everyone needs to be reminded of that once in a while.

As to the comment about the *Spawn* movie adaptation comic: If you don't like it, don't buy it. I know some people are in the business for the money, collecting everything with the hope that some day it will be worth more than you paid for it. But I think the majority of readers out there are reading comic books for the simple enjoyment of reading a good story or visualizing great art. What would be the reason for buying the same CD 3 times? Except for a hard core fan who needs to fill his collection. That is why McFarlane Enterprises thrives. What I'm saying is if you don't like something, then don't buy it. No one puts a gun to your head to tell you to buy things so don't be mad if you bought something you didn't like, because you didn't have to buy it.

Now that I'm done rebutting, I can move on to more pleasant notes. Congrats to Alan McElroy for consistently putting a good story on the market. These days good writers are hard to come by and Alan is one of the better ones. Also Turner and Miki's artistry is phenomenal. Keep up the good work guys.

I'm sorry for making this a long letter but I just needed to write that which I felt. Thanks for one of the better comics on the market today.

Sincerely,
Dave Carlson
Burlington, Iowa

The interesting thing about having so many people endorsing your products throughout the years is you get such a wide variety of opinions on every single topic. Some of it is very detailed and some of it is in general terms, but for the most part there are usually conflicting points of view throughout the whole process. In this case you felt that the previous writer, Thomas Winship, was being nit-picky, but he might be somebody who just likes to see that all the details in the books are very organized and have a purpose. Other people, like yourself, seem to just want to sit back and enjoy the overall nature of some of the stories and artwork and the atmosphere of the comic books.

For instance, in the story of Suture, Sam and Twitch, it's very urban and very real. Since I've been having this discussion in the letter column, some people enjoy that and others want more fantasy or straight forward super hero action in their books because that's what most of the titles in the comic book community are.

In terms of the empire I run, the easy answer is, if you don't like some of the things I'm doing then don't purchase them. However, that becomes easier said than done given that people feel a certain connection once they come into the Spawn or McFarlane universe. They want everything to succeed at the same level and they get a bit frustrated if there is something that doesn't live up to their standards. It's something we struggle with literally every single day. I found out early in the game that there's no way I'm going to make everything work to everyone's satisfaction. I just have to make decisions about what is going out to the marketplace and hope I'm right more times than I'm wrong. So far I've been lucky enough to survive the shark-infested waters of the entertainment world. Again, a couple of wrong turns and I could be yesterday's news. In the meantime, I appreciate you kind comments on Alan McElroy's stories and I whole-heartedly agree with your comments on Dwayne and Danny's art and the amount of detail that goes into each one of them. We'll be announcing some further changes to this book in the next couple of months so hang on and we'll get to you.

Dear Curse Words

I am a thirteen-year-old with a couple of compliments and complaints. First of all, I would like to thank Mr McElroy for creating *Curse of the Spawn*. Great work!!! The movie *Spawn*, which I saw twice on opening day, was a good film. It came in second place for the weekend while *Air Force One* took first. On video, my father bought me the R-rated *Spawn* for my birthday last May. I have both the PG-13 and R version. I watched them both and noticed there isn't much difference between them. The movie only took in about 60 million dollars total. That isn't really a lot compared to other Big Movies. Take *Scream* for example. It brought in over 100 million dollars at the box office and the sequel did even better. It was also R-rated. I like that film a lot. It was a big hit because of what the teens want to see in a film, gore, pure chaos and gore that for some reason was left out of *Spawn*. You guys wanted a PG-13 rating but

it didn't really help now, did it? Take a look at all the smash hits at the box office now, *Scream*, *Scream 2*, and *I Know What You Did Last Summer* will make it at the box-office. All the teens including myself want pure gore!

In regards to the letter in *Curse #13* about *Batman* being a hit, *Batman* is a kids' movie and a kids' comic book. *Spawn* is a bloodbath for mature teens and up. That is why *Batman* is a major hit. I use to collect *Spawn* comics, but I did not really like it that much. Then I read #5 of *Curse*, and it took my breath away. The pure Chaos in that comic, the anger and pure gore made me want to read it again and again. My favorite so far is the Sam & Twitch miniseries. I again thank Mr. McElroy for that and yes, I do know he wrote the movie. And look at the cartoon show. I love it! It was just great. I also thank Mr. McElroy for that. But why the sexual content? Is that needed, especially in a cartoon? That is a rather graphic scene when Chapel is with the prostitute.

If you do make a sequel to *Spawn* in the future, let it be the way it's supposed to be: a pure bloodbath. If you are going to make a *Curse of the Spawn* film, let it be like the comic book. It would be great if it was about the Sam & Twitch miniseries and mix it with other plots. That is just my suggestion. You don't have to do it if you don't want to. I am just giving my opinion. I am looking forward to a reply in a *Curse* issue in the near future. Once again, thank you for creating *Curse*, it is truly a great comic. I get every issue I can. And one more thing; when is the second season of *Spawn* going to be available on video?

Sincerely,
William S
Costa Mesa, CA

The reality of the world is that although the *Spawn* movie only did 60 million dollars domestically, it's actually considered a fairly decent success in Hollywood. You're right - if you stack it up against Mel Gibson and Jodie Foster and Harrison Ford movies and some of the other bigger movies, then it falls way short. If you look at it comparative to the number of movies that were put out in the year of 1997, you'll see that we faired pretty well and actually out-grossed a lot of movies that had major stars and bigger budgets than us. That's the information that always surprises me. Although I was somewhat disappointed in the overall performance of the movie in terms of its gross, when you stack it up over the course of the year and the hundreds of movies that were out, it actually was very high up in the ranking. Depending upon what chart you were looking at, it was very impressive during the month to month quotas.

That doesn't mean you can sit back and rest on your laurels; everyone wants their movie to do better than it did. I don't think there is ever any satisfaction level in terms of where you can rise up to. Hopefully when we come out with the *Spawn* sequel, we can hit the 60 million dollars mark and go beyond and make people pay attention to it. I also hope we can deliver a better movie than the first one so that people will talk about it a little bit more and help boost the chance of coming out with a *Spawn* III.

As for your point about youth and all they care about is blood and gore, I find that very hard to believe. I think what the younger audience likes and what they get out of *Scream*, is the adrenaline rush and the action, not necessarily that someone gets a machete through the eyeball. I don't think you need to show violence for the sake of violence, but if it has a purpose and a place I think you need to put it in. Just to say 'hey, I'm going to do a gore book because I'm appealing to a group of people between the ages of 13 and 18', I think you are being far too simplistic.

Along those lines, if we're going to do a sequel, whether there is blood in it or not, we'll make sure it's appropriate to what we're trying to convey in the movie and not just doing it for the sake of doing it. I'm not saying it's going to be there and I'm not saying it isn't. I'm hoping that what makes *Spawn* interesting to people is the characters. You have to set yourself apart and the thing that sets you apart from other movies is your story and your characters.

Dear Wizard

In response to Todd McFarlane's letter in "Magic Words" in issue #77, there are many reasons why people begin and continue reading certain comics; familiar artists, great artwork, plots thicker than tracing paper, a little reality, and mostly exposure through friends. I never would have started reading *Spawn* if it wasn't for my friend. I kept buying them for the killer artwork, and the great stories. I like the way that the *Spawn* comic does all kinds of things that no one expects, like when Simmons got his face back for a day or however long. But it always manages to bring up issues not only of the supernatural kind, but societies like drug problems, violence, gangs, domestic violence, and racism.

By the by, where I live the only local place to buy comics was a drug store, but that has been bought out and they no longer keep comics in stock. This truly sucks! Is there a way that I could order back issues of *Spawn* without having to shell out ten bucks for a comic? And if it is also possible to get a subscription, maybe send whatever the price of the comic every month to get that issue? I wrote to the address on the inside cover of an issue of *Spawn*, asking the same thing, but I never received a response.

Sincerely
William D. Clifton III
Sent email

It's unfortunate that you don't have easy access to a store to satisfy your comic buying habits but there are a couple of ways to remedy that. One is to check the Internet and two is to go out to the newsstand and buy a *Wizard* magazine and check the ads in the back. They are from people who supply comic books. Three is to phone the toll free number for the Comic Shop Directory that is usually listed on the back of most comic books or toys. They can tell you where your closest shop is now that the one you used to frequent has shut its doors. Hopefully you can find some satisfaction there.

In the meantime, I agree with you that comic books can offer a wider range of stories. I've said to people that comic books are no different than movies. You can have everything from G movies to R-rated movies with every kind of subject matter in there. Comic stores should be closer to what video stores are; you should be able to find anything for anybody from ages five to fifty-five.

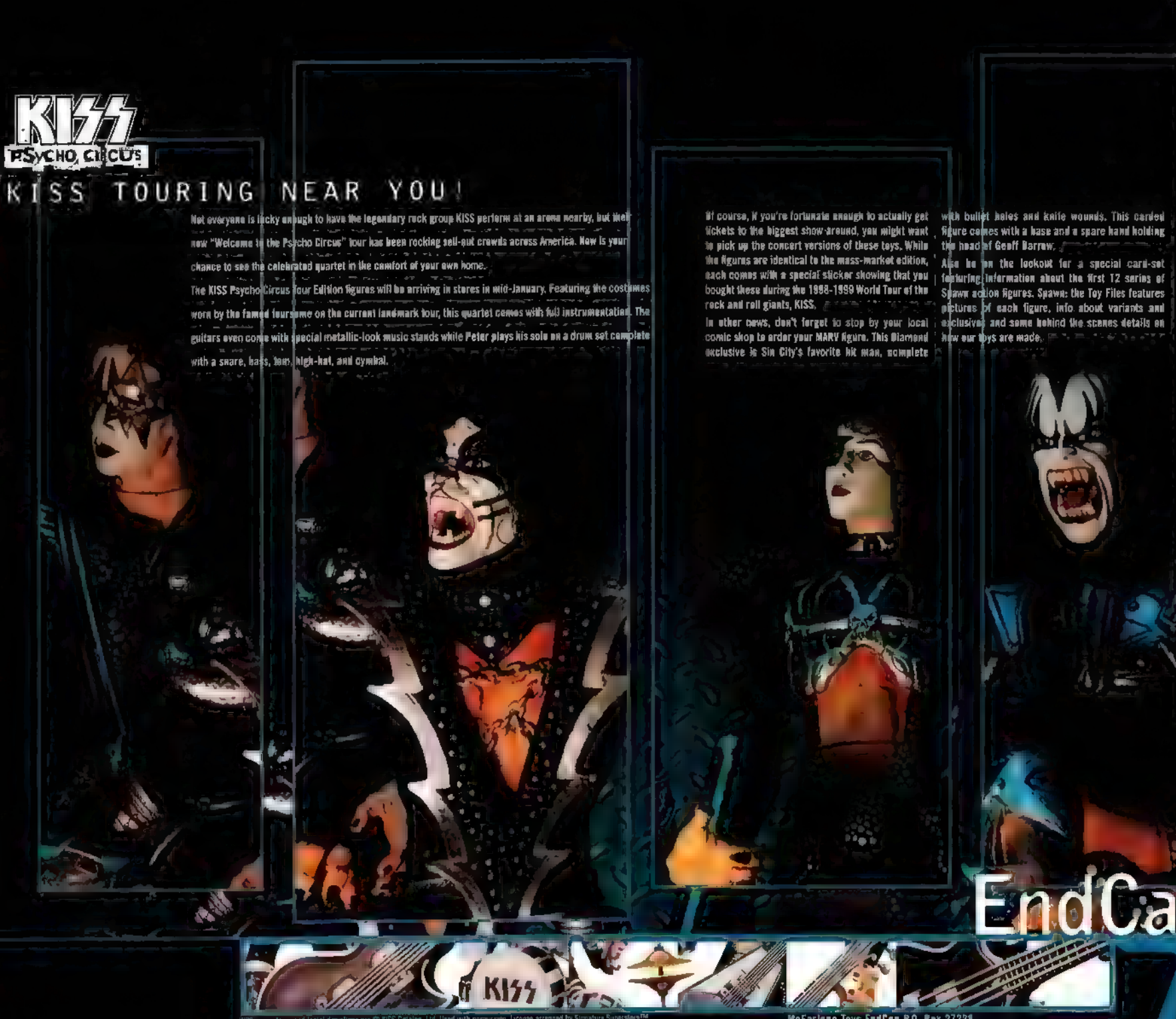
Unfortunately, we seem to gravitate far too much towards the super hero genre and it becomes a stereotype to the people out in the public that it's all we produce. As much as I love super hero comic books, there is a knee jerk reaction from people that comic books begin and end with *Spiderman*, *Batman* and *X-Men*. They are not really aware of other things that might entertain them as a thirty-five year old or as a seven-year old. Unfortunately, this is something we have struggled with, literally since the first day I got into this business. It's something I believe will probably be working against our industry for the rest of our natural lives. Thanks for your letter. Bye.

KISS
PSYCHO CIRCUS

KISS TOURING NEAR YOU!

Not everyone is lucky enough to have the legendary rock group KISS perform at an arena nearby, but their new "Welcome to the Psycho Circus" tour has been rocking sell-out crowds across America. Now is your chance to see the celebrated quartet in the comfort of your own home.

The KISS Psycho Circus Tour Edition figures will be arriving in stores in mid-January. Featuring the costumes worn by the famed foursome on the current landmark tour, this quartet comes with full instrumentation. The guitars even come with special metallic-look music stands while Peter plays his solo on a drum set complete with a snare, bass, tom, high-hat, and cymbal.



Of course, if you're fortunate enough to actually get tickets to the biggest show around, you might want to pick up the concert versions of these toys. While the figures are identical to the mass-market edition, each comes with a special sticker showing that you bought these during the 1998-1999 World Tour of the rock and roll giants, KISS.

In other news, don't forget to stop by your local comic shop to order your MARY figure. This Diamond exclusive is Sin City's favorite hit man, complete with bullet holes and knife wounds. This Garden figure comes with a base and a spare hand holding the head of Geoff Darrow.

Also be on the lookout for a special card-set featuring information about the first 12 series of Spawn action figures. Spawn: the Toy Files features pictures of each figure, info about variants and exclusives, and some behind the scenes details on how our toys are made.

On to the letters:

Noah Teegarden from Sacramento California asked us about the Manga Goddess. He said he saw a listing for her with and without Kanji. He wanted to know if Kanji is the type of mask she has. Actually, Kanji is the term for the symbols written on her chest-plate. She originally shipped without any writing and then later with the Chinese characters. In the repaints, we added some symbols to make it into proper Japanese characters.

Octavio Haro from Huntington Beach CA asked whether we'd ever do a Cogliostro figure. We are doing one through the toy club in a couple of months and it's Cog like you've never seen him before. He'll be in his fighting prime as Count Cogliostro, the scourge of the Middle Ages. Look for this in the next toy club flyer scheduled to be in your mailbox sometime in early 1999.

Gary Tabar from worldnet.net e-mailed us asking about the Dark Ages line. He thought they were cool and asked if there is another line planned. We have had very good response with this line. In fact, we had to delay the repaints until early next year to make sure we'd have enough of them to meet the demand. Also, watch for a big announcement concerning other Dark Ages characters in a few weeks.

In other things, Elias Delgado from Bronx NY sent us a nice sketch of Wolf Spawn. We also got an award-winning set of photos of homemade Spawn figures from Chris Morello of Bound Brook NJ. Chris wins the Diamond Exclusive Green Cosmic Angela for Letter of the Month!

You can win a free toy, too! Simply send us your questions, comments, or artwork about toys. Each month we award one Limited Edition Green Cosmic Angela to the person with the best mail sent in to us so drop us a line!

EndCap 78

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name the CROW contest

Next February Todd McFarlane Productions and Image Comics present THE CROW. An all-new, full-color, monthly series that focuses on the Eric Draven version of The Crow, written by Jon J Muth and illustrated by Jamie Tolagson with painted covers by Kent Williams. To celebrate, we're giving you a chance to win a bunch of cool Crow stuff. All we're looking for are the names of the three actors that have portrayed The Crow.

We'll give you a hint, there have been two movies, THE CROW and THE CROW: CITY OF ANGELS, and the TV show that's on the the air now, THE CROW: STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN. When you figure it out, fill out the form, send it in and you'll have a chance to win one of the following:

GRAND PRIZE 1) A pin-up of The Crow by artist Jamie Tolagson that will appear in The Crow #3

FIRST PRIZE 2) A one-sheet poster from the first CROW movie

SECOND PRIZE 3) A script for The Crow #1 comic book signed by author Jon J Muth.

Name_____

Date of Birth_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone number (including area code)_____

Contest Deadline: December 31, 1998
THE CROW CONTEST, P.O. Box 27228, Tempe, AZ 85285-7228

The three actors are:

Contest Rules: No purchase necessary. Contest is open to anyone except employees of Todd McFarlane Productions and their immediate families. Print your name, date of birth, address, city, state, zip and telephone number, including area code, on the official entry form or a 3" x 5" index card. One entry per person. Mail your entry to: **THE CROW CONTEST, P.O. Box 27228, Tempe, AZ 85285-7228**. All entries become the property of Todd McFarlane Productions and none will be returned. All taxes, federal, state and local, if any, will be the responsibility of the prize winners. Prizes are awarded in the name of the contest winners and are not transferable. Offer void where prohibited, regulated or restricted by law in a manner inconsistent with the purposes and rules hereof. **All entries must be received by December 31, 1998.** Todd McFarlane Productions is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated entries. Winners will be determined by the number of valid entries received prior to the closing date of the contest.

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S P A W N

the polystone cast bust

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from Todd McFarlane Productions

Polystone Cast From the Feature Film SPAWN

Todd McFarlane Productions delivers the most life-like bust ever. It was cast from the actual mask worn by Michale Jai White who played Spawn in the *SPAWN* feature film. The bust is displayed on an incredibly detailed pedestal, sculpted with an organic paint design that exudes realism. The bust stands at 13.5" high and 12" wide.

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FEBRUARY 1999

JON J MUTH & JAMIE TOLAGSON

COVERS BY KENT WILLIAMS

THE CROW

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